

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: JA PINT, PARM, UNGA

SUBJECT: 1977 OBSERVANCES OF HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI NUCLEAR BOMBINGS

REF: TOKYO 11962

1. SUMMARY: 1977 OBSERVANCES OF NUCLEAR BOMBINGS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI ATTRACTED MORE MEDIA INTEREST IN JAPAN THAN HAD BEEN CASE IN RECENT YEARS. PRINCIPAL REASONS WERE HIGHER LEVEL OF FOREIGN PARTICIPATION, ESPECIALLY UNGS PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE, EFFORTS AT REUNIFICATION OF MAIN FRACTIONS OF JAPAN ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT WHICH SPLIT 14 YEARS AGO, AND DESIRE OF ANTI-NUCLEAR FORCES TO PRODUCE RESULTS WHICH COULD BE USED AT UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSD) IN 1978. SUPPORT FOR OBSERVANCES WITHIN JAPAN CENETERED ON PROFESSIONAL MOVEMENT ACTIVISTS AND HIROSHIM-NAGASAKI CITIZEN GROUPS. IMPACT ON UN SSD WILL DEPEND ON FUTURE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THIRD WORLD. STATEMENTS OF AMERASINGHE AT HIROSHIMA SUGGEST HE MAY BECOME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE ANTI-NUCLEAR ADVOCATE. END SUMMARY.

2. PROMINENT FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THIS YEAR'S ANTI-NUCLEAR EVENTS

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IN JAPAN BEGAN WITH "SYMPOSIUM OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS" TO RESTUDY EFFECTS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI BOMBINGS AND SEEK ACTION FROM UN SSD AND ANY GOVERNMENTS WHO CAN BE PERSUADED. AMONG LEADING PARTICIPANTS WERE BRITISH NOBEL LAUREATE PHILIP NOEL-BAKER, DIRECTOR OF WORLD PEACE BUREAU (AND FORMER IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER) SEAN MCBRIDE, AND A PROFESSOR TRAMPLIN OF U.S. SYMPOSIUM AGREED THAT ESTIMATE OF NUMBER KILLED IN HIROSHIMA

AND NAGASAKI BOMBINGS SHOULD BE RAISED FROM 100,000 TO 210,000. ON FUTURE PROGRAM, HOWEVER, SYMPOSIUM, ACCORDING JAPANESE PRESS, DIVIDED SHARPLY BETWEEN THOSE, PROMINENTLY INCLUDING SOVIET DELEGATION, WHO OPPOSED TOTAL REJECTION OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND PARTICIPANTS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES, FOR WHOM PROFESSOR TRAMPLIN WAS A PROMINENT SPOKESMAN, WHO ARGUED THAT MOVEMENT COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED ANTI-NUCLEAR IF IT STOPPED SHORT OF OPPOSING NUCLEAR GENERATION PROCESSES WHICH PRODUCED PLUTONIUM. INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS ALSO SPLIT OVER REACTION TO SOVIET JULY 26 TEST EXPLOSION, WITH NUMBER OF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS JOINING PROTEST SIT-IN AT HIROSHIMA PEACE MEMORIAL AUGUST 2. SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD ARGUED THAT U.S. HAD CONDUCTED MORE TESTS THAN SOVIET UNION AND ONE-SIDED CRITICISM IMPROPER. HOWEVER, SOVIETS APPEARED ON DEFENSIVE, AS LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY AND PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY ALSO CAME UNDER CRITICISM, UNTIL NEWS OF U.S. AUGUST 4 UNDERGROUND TEST REVERSED THE TIDE.

3. THE TWO MAIN BRANCHES OF JAPANESE ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT, JSP-LINE GENSUIKIN AND JCP-LINE GENSUIKYO, HAD AGREED ON MAY 19 TO CONDUCT NK "UNIFIED WORLD CONFERENCE" OBSERVANCE OF THE NUCLEAR ANNIVERSARY AT HIROSHIMA. THIS RESULTED PRIMARILY FROM EFFORTS OF "NEUTRAL" JAPANESE ACADEMICS AND CLEARLY LEFT MUCH SUSPICION AND DOUBT AMONG ORGANIZATION ACTIVISTS, PRIMARILY ON GENSUIKIN SIDE. GENSUIKIN IN FACT ALSO HELD SEPARATE CONFERENCE AT HIROSHIMA EVENING OF AUGUST 5, AT WHICH JSP CHAIRMAN NARITA, KOMEITO DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WATABE, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOHYO SECRETARY GENERAL TOMIZUKA SPOKE. PRESS ACCOUNTS NOTED THAT SPEAKERS BROUGHT OUT DIFFERENCES WITH GENSUIKYO AND DOUBTS CONCERNING THE PROSPECT FOR ORGANIZATIONAL UNITY. AT UNIFIED CONFERENCE "PLENARY" AUGUST 6, NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS FROM GENSUIKIN AND GENSUIKYO WERE CAREFULLY EQUALIZED BY ADVANCE AGREEMENT TO AVOID MOBILIZATION CONTEST, AND CONTENT LFGQ CHAIRMAN'S KEYNOTE STATEMENT WERE PAINSTAKINGLY NEGOTIATED BEFOREHAND, ACCORDING TO PRESS. IN GENERAL GENSUIKIN LINE PARALLELED THAT OF WESTERN FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS IN OPPOSING NUCLEAR ENERGY AS WELL AS NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WHILE GENSUIKYO PARALLELED LINE OF SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES. PRESS REPORTED PRESENCE OF CUBAN AND VIETNAMESE DELEGATIONS AND NOTED THAT NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION WAS NOT PERMITTED TO COME TO JAPAN FOR

EVENTS, BUT THERE WAS NO COMMENT ON APPARENT TOTAL ABSENCE OF CHINESE REPRESENTATION. 66 NON-JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS FROM 23 COUNTRIES REPORTEDLY TOOK PART IN SYMPOSIUM, 31 COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED AT AUGUST 6 MEMORIAL SERVICE.FLGJCR. UNGA PRESIDENT AMER ASINGHE ARRIVED HIROSHIMA AUGUST 5 IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION EXTENDED BY MAYORS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI WHEN THEY VISITED UN IN NOVEMBER 1976. DIRECTOR OF UN

INFORMATION CENTER AT TOKYO ALSO ATTENDED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF SECRETARY GENERAL. ACCORDING TO PRESS, AMERASINGHE WAS SEVERELY SHOCKED BY DISPLAYS AT CTOHJCVTYRVSDZJN

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DISARMAMENT, AND AT SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO CORRECT DOMINATION OF UN BY THE BIG NUCLEAR ARMED POWERS, CALLED THE NEUTRON BOMB "A WEAPON FATAL TO HUMAN PROGRESS", CRITICIZED PAST UN DISARMAMENT EFFORTS, AND PRAISED THE PROPOSAL BY HIROSHIMA CITY TO HOLD A A-BOMB EXHIBIT AT THE UN.

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5. JAPANESE MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO AMERASINGHE PARTICIPATION AND STATEMENTS, BUT WERE IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF CONTINUED EFFORTS TO GENSUIKIN AND GENSUIKYO TO DOMINATE JAPANESE ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT WHETHER SEPARATELY OR IN COMBINATION. MEDIA, INCLUDING HIROSHIMA TV MORNING OF AUGUST 5, FEATURED COMMENTS BY "MAN IN THE STREET" TO EFFECT THAT ORGANIZATION-DOMINATED MOVEMENT MADE NO PROVISION FOR PARTICIPATION BY ORDINARY CITIZENS. SEVERAL SMALLER JAPANESE ANTI-NUCLEAR ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING NON-IDEOLOGICAL KAKKIN KAIGI AND LEAGUE OF BOMB VICTIMS ORGANIZATIONS, REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN HIROSHIMA JOINT CONFERENCE. GENSUIKIN AND GENSUIKYO FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A JOINT CONFERENCE AT NAGASAKI ANNIVERSARY AUGUST 9.

6. CONGEN VISITED HIROSHIMA AUGUST 4 TO 5 AT INVITATION OF MAYOR YYJOLZQFDM PPLTEYZCG#*; ;50
TOU R
BHP WAHKBELIZATIONAL
CONFERENCES, AND APPRECIATIVE OF TREATMENT WHEN MAYOR VISITED U.S. LAST YEAR. CITY WAS QUIET WITH NO SIGNS OF DEMONSTRATIONS OR HEIGHTENED CITIZEN EMOTIONS. FORTUNATELY CONGEN DEPARTED HIROSHIMA BEFORE NEWS OF U.S. TEST EXPLOSION ARRIVED SO THAT MAYOR LIMITED HIS REACTION TO PROTEST TELEGRAM TO EMBASSY TOKYO.

7. 1977 OBSERVANCES INDICATE THAT JAPANESE ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT REMAINS FRAGMENTED. GENSUIKIN AND GENUIKYO APPEAR LIKELY TO PURSUE THEIR SEPARATE PARTISAN OBJECTIVES,"&
HILE 9THER
ORGANIZATIONS AND HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI CITY OFFICIALS EMPHASIZE MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE AID TO BOMBING VICTIMS AND NON-PARTISAN PROMOTION OF PEACE AND DISARMAMENT AS OPPORTUNITY OFFERS. NEXT PROMINENT OPPORTUNITY AS THEY SEE IT IS THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, AND WE CAN EXPECT MANEUVERING
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BOTH AMONG JAPANESE GROUPS AND INTERNATIONALLY IN ATTEMPT TO
MAXIMIZE AND INTERPRET "THE LESSONS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI"
AS THEY RELATE TO THAT SESSION.

8. JAPANESE MEDIA INDICATE EXPECTATION OF FURTHER DECLINE IN
JAPANESE EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI
CATASTROPHE. A LIDICVLXZDUU

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, FORMAL COMMEMORATION

OF DEATH OF A RELATIVE FORMALLY ENDS; SOME CONFUSION APPEARS AS
TO WHETHER THIS YEAR IS 32 OR 33 FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER
THE ANTI-NUCLEAR ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE CIVIC AUTHORITIES OF
HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, CLEARLY INTEND TO DO THEIR BEST TO KEEP
THE QUESTION ALIVE.

AINSWORTH

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE RECEIVED GARBLED.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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